

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF 1013TH MEETING
HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2007
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. PROCTOR T. SHARRATT AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors J. Baldwin E. Miller Crook and Ms M. Urry.

32. COUNCILLOR J .WILSON - CHORLEY COUNCIL:

The Chairman and Councillor Sharratt referred to the sudden death of Councillor Wilson the former leader of Chorley Council.

The Parish Council agreed to send a letter of condolence to his family.

33. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

The Clerk reminded Members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters on the agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct.

34. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th May 2007 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

35. POLICING REPORT:

In the absence of the Police the Clerk reported on policing in the Parish since the last meeting and the Chairman reported on the Police Authority Community Meeting for Chorley held on 4th June.

Councillor Proctor reported a further incident in Quaker Brook Lane

36. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Association Newsletter giving details of the Association AGM on 3rd November 2007. Notification of delegates and details of any resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting were required by 21st September 2007.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and Councillor Ms Urry were appointed the Council's delegates to the Annual General Meeting.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 18TH JUNE 2007)

Councillor Sharratt proposed the following resolution to the Annual General Meeting:-

“That LAPTIC calls on the Standards Board to impose a time limit , of say three months for the submission of evidence in a complaint against a Councillor.”

The Parish Council agreed to forward the resolution to the Annual General Meeting.

Any further resolutions would be considered at the meeting of the Parish Council on 17th September 2007.

The Chorley Area Annual General Meeting and the normal business meeting would take place on 25th June 2007.

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the LAPTIC Executive Committee would consider an item on post office closures.

The consultation period for any prospective closure was six weeks.

The Clerk would consult the local MP. for information about the consultation procedure.

37. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The Chairman reported that the Lancashire Local at the meeting on 13th June had agreed to the recommendation of the Environment Directorate that the scheme should go ahead with a 50 mph speed limit subject to a review of traffic speeds in three years time.

Members commented on the discussions at the Lancashire Local meeting and expressed concern about the way the decision was arrived at.

Councillor Proctor raised the question of the Reduce Speed Now Sign proposed for The Straits and asked why only one sign was to be provided.

The Clerk would seek clarification about this from the County Council Environment Directorate.

The Clerk also reported correspondence from the Local MP giving the views of the Police and the Environment Directorate on a 40 mph speed limit.

The Clerk would write to the MP to correct some anomalies in the letter from the Police.

(B). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

A copy of a plan was circulated which appeared to show that the land in question was in the ownership of the Brewery.

The Clerk would now approach the Brewery regarding the tidying up of the land and the de Hoghton Estate informed of the action taken.

(C). STILE – PUBLIC FOOTPATH:

Councillor Proctor reported that an investigation of the stile had taken place.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 18TH JUNE 2007)

38. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

39. PLANNING REPORT:

A. DECISIONS

The Clerk reported that the application for a Single storey front extension, single storey rear extension, enlargement of detached garage and pitched roof to garage Heathcote The Straits Applicants Mr.and Mrs. Murray (App no 07/00443/FUL) had been granted permission.

B. APPLICATIONS:

An application for certificate of lawful use of an existing swimming pool Woodland Manor Private Road . Applicant Mr P Chesworth (App No 07/00653/CLEUD) had been submitted to Chorley Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council made no observations on the application.

The Clerk also reported on a consultation paper issued by the Government aimed at changing permitted development rights for householders in relation to the use of solar panels wind turbines and other environmental proposals.

40. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

1 T. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses Quarter ended June 2007	£418.94
2. Mr Whiteside	Repointing of Wall at Pinfold	£510.00

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques were signed.

41. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEM:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 it was required to conduct a review at least once a year on the effectiveness of its system of internal control .

A guidance note had been issued and it was agreed to consider the matter was at the next meeting.

42. VAT REPAYMENT:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the VAT for 2006/07 had been reclaimed amounting to £61.66.

43. TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FOR CHORLEY:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the suggestion regarding the provision of a Rail Halt and Park and Ride Scheme was not part of the Plan but Chorley had agreed to discuss it with the County Council.

44. CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Clerk submitted further information regarding the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct for Members issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government. The Parish Council had until October 2007 to adopt the revised Code . It was agreed that the scheme be considered at the meeting on 16th July 2007.

45. THE LANCASHIRE PARTNERSHIP – RESTRUCTURE:

The Clerk submitted a consultation document on the proposed restructure of the Lancashire Partnership following the publication of the white paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities.

No comments were made on the proposals.

46. VICTIM SUPPORT LANCASHIRE:

The organisation had requested a grant/donation from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to continue with its existing policy of support for organisations based within Hoghton.

47. CHORLEY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

Chorley Council had decided to withdraw the Development Plan Document dealing with Chorley Town Centre Action Area and Retail and Leisure Policies. The decision was taken in response to comments received from the Government Office North West.

48. PARISH CHARTER FOR LANCASHIRE:

Last year the Parish Council considered a draft Parish Charter the idea was to establish closer links with the County Council. The charter was not developed because the consultations proved inconclusive. In view of other developments from the Government such as the white paper on strong Local Communities and the County`s proposals to engage with people at very local level they had decided to start consulting all over again.

They had organised a series of road shows to discuss with parishes the role of the charter in future working relationships. The one for Chorley would be held on Tuesday 26th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Oak Room at the Woodlands Conference Centre Chorley. Two representatives had been invited.

There is also to be a conference on 15th September when the Charter will be formally agreed.

The Chairman would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 18TH JUNE 2007)

49. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON COMMITTEE:

The next meeting would be held on 18th July and Councillor Ms Urry Marel was the Parish Council's representative on the Committee. The Clerk would send her details of the meeting.

50. GIB LANE:

The Vice Chairman reported he had received complaints about the general condition of Gib Lane and in particular the overgrown footway.

The Clerk would ask the Area County Surveyor to investigate.

51. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL:

Councillor Sharratt referred to anomalies in the costs of concessionary travel for residents living near Park Gates and indicated he had consulted the County Council and the Bus Company about this. He would report further when the County Council had responded to his enquiry.

52. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th July 2007 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30.p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

16TH JULY 2007